

Do it yourself: homeschooling

We have the right to self-educate and to create a learning environment that is nurturing to our own needs. "The most overwhelming reality of school is *control*." Just like prisons, schools control, manipulate, monitor, and coerce children into "learning". Schooling is about training people to repeat information in ways that supports the standing capitalistic, patriarchal system. It is time that we start taking our time and energy into our own hands and homes.



THE HOW TO'S:

- #1. Research! Research! Research! Find information about homeschooling; talk to your friends and family and collect data; Read books about homeschooling at your library; you can also find a lot of info on the web.
- #2. Talk with your family about your ideas and needs; a book I find helpful if your parents are set on "get'n you an education" is the Teenage Liberation Handbook by Grace Llewellyn.
- #3. Find out about other homeschooler's/unschooler's stories and check out if there are any clubs or groups in your local area.
- #4. Take a breath and reassure yourself that even though it seems like a lot of work and hassle it is well worth it! Take some time to really get a feel of how you learn (or how your children learn) and remember no matter what we are doing whether working or playing in the yard we are always learning so I suggest keep it simple.
- #5. Find out the "legal stuff"; you can contact Home School Legal Defense Association for info about the legalities of homeschooling in your state: P.O. Box 3000 Purcellville, VA 20134 or 540.338.5600; or look on the web as well
- #6. Evaluate your needs or your children's needs; homeschooling allows the opportunity to shape your education around your own desires and goals; identify some of your goals and write them down.
- #7. Investigate all the various different methods of keeping records, setting up a curriculum and choose what kind of

things you want to spend your time and energy with; I also suggest keeping a journal or logbook; if you have children that are homeschooling ask them constantly what feels right to them, what they need, what their goals/interests are; a really good book to get some ideas from, even if you are just starting out or if you have kids, is Homeschoolers' College Admissions Handbook by Cafi Cohen, she has also written other helpful books on this stuff.

#8. GET ORGANIZED!

#9. If you are still in school or if you have kids still in school and you are wishing to homeschool you can or your parents can formally withdraw by letter, phone, or in person. And really it should be "no questions asked" but be prepared to face criticism from school authorities as well as family, friends and coworkers...Keep your vision!!!

#10. The oh so delicate socialization issue, here are so ideas: if you were previously in school you can still keep in contact with old friends; there are so many clubs and groups to join, you are sure to find one that interests you or start your own!; meet up with other homeschooler's and start your own sports team or library. Homeschooler's often find that they have fewer acquaintances and have stronger, closer friendships; they may also find that their circle of friends includes kids and adults; start a pen pall organization; just get involved and get active and new friendships will arise!!!

#11. A REMINDER: your homeschooling experience is only as rich as you allow it to be. Be creative! Have Fun! And stay focused!!! Schooling at home doesn't have to be "school at home" with texts and regimented hours and set curriculum you must follow. Be flexible and remember you are unique so you can allow your homeschooling to be that way also:)

"The nightmare of schooling is costing our kids, our families and communities dearly in every way. Schools waste more money than anyone can fully conceive of, demand that our kids spend twelve years of their natural youth in morbidly depressing and oppressive environments and pour energies of thousands upon thousands of eager teachers into demeaning and foolish classrooms"—Matt Hern

